



Economic Development & Improvement Commission (EDIC)

Regular Meeting – Thursday, January 8, 2015 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall
MINUTES

1. Call to order - The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM
2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required) - Chairman Mark Trahan, Tony Martino - Town Council, Gioia Zack, Leslie Civitello - Chamber of Commerce, Joan Hughes, Dorcas McHugh, Leigh Standish - Planning and Zoning Commission, Peter Gillespie - Director of Planning & Economic Development, Jeff Bridges - Town Manager and Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner.
3. Old Business
 - a. Vacant Property Updates - Peter Gillespie discussed the following:
 - 341 Jordan Lane - Real Estate Negotiations underway for a potential partial demo and reuse.
 - 1178 Silas Deane Highway - The owner indicated that there were a few interested parties. Property maintenance orders complied with.
 - 295 Ridge Road - Met with a new interested developer for multi-family.
 - 125 Silas Deane Highway - Center space may be filled in April.
 - 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Working with owner to obtain demolition estimates and discuss potential end uses.
 - 2180 Berlin Turnpike - Interested developer.
 - b. Grant Project Status
 1. Heritage Walk – HFGP and CT Humanities - Peter Gillespie reported on preparing to put the project out to bid next week. Waiting for final specifications on several of the panels. Looking to have the bid awarded by Town Council in February. Looking for installation in late May 2015.
 2. Church/Main Street Intersection - Public meeting scheduled for January 29th in the Town Council Chambers. Traffic counts completed. The Engineer is compiling findings.
 3. STEAP 2014 – 1000 Silas Deane Highway - Draft agreement is being reviewed and revised with the State and the developer.
 4. STEAP 2015 - Peter Gillespie noted that an application was submitted for the Solomon Welles House in the amount of \$500,000. noted that ideas were solicited from the various town departments.
4. New Business
 - a. Business Directory - ShopWethersfield.biz - Community Art Contest to design "Woogle" header. The Directory is live, still tweaking the functionality and we will meet with IT to finalize the roll out.
 - b. Façade Improvement Program and Policy Changes - Peter Gillespie reported that the Town Council voted to approve the suggested changes.

- d. Community Photo Contest 2014 - The winners were recognized at the Salute to Business. A meeting of the photographers will take place in February.
 - e. Town Calendar 2015 - The calendar is being printed and will be delivered next week.
 - f. Welcome Wagon/New Business/Ribbon Cutting – 2015 Initiative
 - g. Why Wethersfield - 2015 - Ask the IT Department to look into securing the "Why Wethersfield" domain name.
5. Other Business - There was no other business to report.
6. Reports Town Manager's Report – Jeff Bridges reported on the following:
 - Entering budget season, introduced \$22 million in bonds for the High School
 - Decrease in Paine's collection rates
 - WHS - New gyms and band rooms opened upTown Council Liaison's Report – Tony Martino reported on the approval of the 1303 Union Contract, met with the auditors on the Pension Plan and the town is doing very well. The gas bid also came in lower.
Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Leigh Standish reported on the approval of the last liquor license in the Marshall's Shopping Plaza and the approval of a changeable message sign at City Fish Market.
Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – Dorcas McHugh reported on coordinating a package for tour operators.
Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Leslie Civitello was recently named the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. The Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Keeney next Thursday at 8:30 AM. The State of the Town will be held at 8:00 AM at the Keeney on Thursday, January 29th. The Holidays on Main Event drew 4-5,000 visitors.
Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie reported on highlights of the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting.
7. Chairman's Report – Mark Trahan had nothing additional to report.
8. Sub-Committee Reports Marketing and Communications - Nothing additional to report.
A meeting to discuss several 2015 initiatives should be scheduled.

Financial Strategies - Nothing additional to report.
9. Minutes – November 13, 2014 Meeting - Dorcas McHugh made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Leigh Standish seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
10. Next Meeting – Thursday February 12, 2014
11. Correspondence - There was no additional correspondence.
12. Adjournment - Dorcas McHugh made a motion to adjourn. Joan Hughes seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Denise Bradley - Assistant Planner